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Human rights questions: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Internally displaced persons

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The Secretary-General has the honour to inform the members of the General Assembly that he has appointed Mr. Walter Kälin (Switzerland) as his Representative on the human rights of internally displaced persons.

2. At its sixtieth session, the Commission on Human Rights adopted resolution 2004/55 of 20 April 2004, in which it requested the Secretary-General, in effectively building upon the work of his Representative on internally displaced persons, whose mandate ended in July 2004, to establish a new mechanism. The Commission's resolution was endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2004/263.

3. On 21 September 2004, the Secretary-General appointed his new Representative on the human rights of internally displaced persons.

4. Pursuant to the resolution, the tasks of the Representative will be to "address the complex problem of internal displacement, in particular by mainstreaming human rights of the internally displaced into all relevant parts of the United Nations system" and to "work towards strengthening the international response to the complex problem of situations of internal displacement, and engage in coordinated international advocacy and action for improving protection and respect of the human rights of the internally displaced, while continuing and enhancing dialogues with Governments, as well as non-governmental organizations and other relevant actors".

5. The Representative will be supported by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and will work closely with the Emergency Relief Coordinator; the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, in particular its Inter-Agency Division on Internal Displacement; the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; and other pertinent agencies and actors.

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6. The Representative is also called upon to "submit annual reports on his activities to the Commission on Human Rights and to the General Assembly, making suggestions and recommendations regarding the human rights of the internally displaced persons and engaging in an interactive dialogue thereon". Pursuant to his mandate, the Special Representative will present his first report to the Commission on Human Rights in its sixty-first session and to the General Assembly in its sixtieth session.